All India Radio and Doordarshan to counter hostile propaganda and to maintain communal harmony.

Downsizing of the Ministry

389. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is going through any downsizing plan; and

(b) if so, the names of the offices of the Ministry and the number of staff going to get VRS?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Introduction of DD Bharati Channel

390. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved programmes for the newly introduced DD Bharati Channel which will be aired during the next financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and efforts made to invite sponsors for these programmes and the response received, so far; and

(b) whether it is mandatory to beam the DD Bharati Channel by the cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) All programme matters, including programming of DD Bharati, fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati, an autonomous statutory body. Government does not interfere in such matters. Prasar Bharati has intimated that DD Bharati Channel has started functioning from 26.1.2002.

(b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan had invited proposals under the sponsored category for programmes on health, children, music, dance,

art, culture, travel, tourism, etc. In response about 100 proposals have been received.

(c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that an amendment to the earlier notification under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, was issued on 4.2.2002, making DD Bharati a Channel, to be carried by all cable operators in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

Family Courts

391. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of family courts set up by the states and the Union Territories as on 28th February, 2002, under the Family Courts Act, 1984;

(b) the total number of cases pending before family courts in the country, State-wise; and

(c) how his Ministry is persuading the State Governments to establish more and more family courts to resolve the family disputes?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per available information, 85 Family Courts have been set up as on 28th February, 2002 by the State and Union Territories under the Family Courts act, 1984.

(b) A statement showing State-wise pendency of cases before family courts is enclosed (see below).

(c) Periodically the Central Government has been persuading the State Governments and Union Territories to establish more and more Family Courts to resolve the family disputes. Further, subject to approval of Parliament, funds have been proposed to the States in Budget Estimates 2002-2003 for setting up of Family Courts in the States.